Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 /103 W

-----010524 090820Z /12

R 080520Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4247
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, KS, AS, CH, EUR

SUBJECT: INTERNAL DFA ATTITUDES TOWARDS CHINA/KOREA/US/USSR

REF: CANBERRA 6962 (NOTAL)

- 1. IN THE CONTEXT OF QUESTION OF AUSTRALIAN ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICER TO UN/KOREA REAR ECHELON DETACHMENT IN JAPAN (NOTAL), BELIEVE THE FOLLOWING EXTRACTS FROM NEWS ITEMS ATTRIBUTED TO "A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT" IN THE "CANBERRA TIMES" OF SEPTEMBER 6 AND 7 ARE OF INTEREST:
- 2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FROM CANBERRA TIMES OF SEPT. 6,
 1978: "A ROW HAS FLARED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN
 AFFAIRS OVER PROPOSALS FOR A VISIT TO CHINA BY THE JOINT
 SERVICES STAFF COLLEGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE.
 "THE PROPOSED VISIT, WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE BY
 MEMBERS OF THE FIRST COURSE AT THE COLLEGE NEXT YEAR, HAS
 RECEIVED STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE CHINA SECTION OF FOREIGN
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AFFAIRS BUT HAS BEEN BITTERLY OPPOSED BY THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW AND THE SOVIET DESK IN CANBERRA."

"THE COURSES, USUALLY ATTENDED BY MIDDLE-LEVEL MILITARY AND A FEW CIVILIAN OFFICERS, NORMALLY INCLUDE AN OVERSEAS REGIONAL COUNTRY ON A FAMILIARISATION TOUR AS WELL AS EXTENSIVE TOURING WITHIN AUSTRALIA.

"IN RECENT YEARS COURSES HAVE INCLUDED VISITS TO JAPAN,

THE PHILIPPINES, NEW ZEALAND, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES. SO FAR NO COURSE HAS INCLUDED VISITING SOUTH KOREA OR TO A COMMUNIST COUNTRY."

3. FROM THE CANBERRA TIMES OF SEPTEMBER 7, 1978:
"SUGGESTIONS THAT A JSSC VISIT BE MADE TO SOUTH KOREA WERE
UNANIMOUSLY CONDEMNED BY FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DESPITE THE
RELATIVELY CLOSE MILITARY LINKS BETWEEN THIS COUNTRY AND
SOUTH KOREA, WHICH MAINTAINS A MILITARY ATTACHE IN CANBERRA,
A FACILITY AFFORDED VERY FEW COUNTRIES.
"THE SUGGESTION THAT THE SOUTH KOREAN INDUSTRIAL
"MIRACLE" MIGHT BE A WORTHY OBJECT OF JSSC STUDY WAS
OPPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON THE GROUND
THAT SUCH A TOUR MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTOOD BOTH IN PEKING
AND MOSCOW."

"IN THE CASE OF THE SUGGESTION OF A VISIT TO SOUTH KOREA THERE WAS VERY PROMPT DISAPPROVAL AND THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DID NOT PURSUE IT.
"SOUTH KOREA HAS EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTY IN DEALING

"SOUTH KOREA HAS EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTY IN DEALING WITH AUSTRALIA ON SEVERAL DEFENCE-RELATED MATTERS, ONE OF WHICH CONCERNED THE POSSIBLE ACQUISITION BY SEOUL OF AUSTRALIAN-BUILT JINDIVIK TARGET AIRCRAFT.
"REQUESTS BY SOUTH KOREA FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE JINDIVIK WERE DELAYED FOR MONTHS BEFORE CONSENT WAS GRANTED TO SUPPLY INFORMATION NOT MUCH MORE DETAILED THAN THAT AVAILABLE IN PUBLIC JOURNALS.
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"IN THE EVENT, AFTER MONTHS OF PROCRASTINATION IN CANBERRA, THE KOREANS PLACED AN ORDER FOR TARGET AIRCRAFT ELSEWHERE". END UNCLASSIFIED. ALSTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 08 sep 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER07248
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780367-0698 Format: TEL

From: CANBERRA Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780990/aaaacwko.tel

Line Count: 98 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5fbbde55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ACTION EA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 CANBERRA 6962

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 28 apr 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:**

Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1510975 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: INTERNAL DFA ATTITUDES TOWARDS CHINA/KOREA/US/USSR

TAGS: MARR, KS, AS, CH, UNC

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5fbbde55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014